Am I then to understand that the Municipal Council has spent the municipal funds on certain items of expenditure without any benefit whatsoever to the public at large? It is to elicit an answer with regard to that that the question was put.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If the member is only repeating part (2) of the question, then the answer is already given there.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government will call for the information?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have already answered that.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Government aware that there was a protest against the digging of this well, which was anticipated, against the wishes of the citizens of Nagercoil?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not able to answer him unless the member gives particulars of the information to be called for.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was there not any petition to the Government?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If the member will state particulars about the petition, it will be enquired into.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): That is clear from the question. I want to know whether there was any petition of protest sent to the Government.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That will be ascertained.

Interpellations and Resolutions from Mr. Kumaraswami Pillai, Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil.

134. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of resolutions, with their respective dates of despatch and the dates on which they were placed before the Council, sent by member Mr. C. V. Kumaraswami Pillai, ever since the new Municipal Council began; and

(*b*) the number of his interpellations with the respective dates of their receipt in the office and those of their answers in the Council?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Government have no information.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know why the Government did not call for the information?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer that I gave to question No. 132 applies to this also.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know what the members have got to do if their resolutions and interpellations are not placed before the Municipal Council?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : The Regulation provides safeguards for all that. Action must be taken under the Regulation.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is the member aware that the only step that the member could take is to bring the matter before the Government ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : That may be done.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Was there not any representation of that kind to the Government?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : It is a new question; it is not a supplementary question arising out of this.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Did the Government call for an explanation from the Municipal Chairman on the subject matter of this question ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : No information was called for in view of the answer to the question.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Am I to understand then that any member while calling for the information on this subject would be supplied with the information by the Municipal Council ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : There are rules in regard to the right of interpellations.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is there any rule prohibiting the Government from calling for the information ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : The legal question as to the competency of the Government in calling for the information does not arise.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Sir, I want to know whether interpellations on matters concerning a Municipal Council could be allowed in this Council. If it can be allowed, then why was no answer given ?

PRESIDENT : Government can be asked for the information, but if they have not got the information in their hands, in some cases, it is not necessary for them to go and collect it from the Municipality when the members can collect it from the Municipal Council themselves.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I want to know whether a Legislative Council Member can ask the Government to collect the information.

PRESIDENT : He can ask only for the information which the Government possess. He cannot ask the Government to collect information from a self-governing body.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Do the Government control the Municipalities ?

PRESIDENT : That is entirely a different matter. You asked for a ruling from me and I have given it.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly